

11/11/03 - Superfund
***Redevelopment of the Prestolite Battery Superfund Site
Vincennes, Indiana***

Before the National Priorities List site in Vincennes, Indiana was redeveloped, the area did not have a hardware superstore, but now there is a Lowe's, as well as several other businesses new to Knox County. In addition to the 134,000 square foot Lowe's, there are two well known restaurants, Denny's and Grandy's, and a Hucks convenience store with a gas station. This former Superfund site has become an important commercial center, bringing many economic and social benefits to Vincennes and the surrounding communities.



In 1996, the U.S. EPA entered into an agreement with a Vincennes area real estate developer to transform the unsightly property where a Prestolite Battery facility operated from 1945 to 1985. During this period, lead-laden sludge and waste water were discharged to an onsite sewer system, leaking into the groundwater, soil, surface water, and air. Removal actions began in 1993 with the removal of approximately 13,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and the connection of nearby residents to municipal water supplies.

Beginning in 2001, businesses started to open; Lowe's opened in 2002, providing Vincennes residents with a local option for home improvement hardware and services. The revitalization of this site has brought with it many economic and social benefits that will continue into the distant future.

Positive Economic and Fiscal Impacts

- Approximately 212 on-site jobs at Lowe's, Denny's, Grandy's, and Hucks
- Approximately \$4,000,000 in income from on-site jobs in 2002
- Over \$5,500,000 in property values on the site in 2003
- Approximately \$230,000 in increased property tax revenue for Knox County in 2003

Environmental and Social Benefits

- Attracted new businesses to the area
- Improved aesthetic value of the local landscape
- Protected human health and the environment by removing contaminated soil and connecting residents to municipal water supplies